

Application Serial No.: 10/040,231
Amendment and Response to April 25, 2006 Final Office Action

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the JUN 15 2006 application:

1. – 81. (cancelled)

82. (previously presented) A method, comprising:

arranging for an item owned by a first party to be within a container;

providing the container and the item to a second party without receiving payment for the item from the second party, wherein the first party remains the owner of the item while the second party has possession of the container and the item;

receiving a signal indicating that the container has been opened;

verifying that the container was opened in accordance with an item requirement, wherein the item requirement includes a requirement that no more than a selected number of containers, each containing an associated item, have been opened in a selected time period;

transferring ownership of the item to the second party in response to the signal; and

arranging for the second party to provide payment for the item in response to the signal.

83. (currently amended) The method of claim 82 80, further comprising:

transmitting an alert if the container was not opened in accordance with the item requirement.

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84. (previously presented) The method of claim 82, wherein the item is associated with a medical treatment program.

85. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein the second party is a person who opened the container, or a party associated with the container.

86. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein the payment is associated with at least one of: (i) a purchase, (ii) a license, (iii) a loan, or (iv) a rental.

87. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein said receiving comprises:

receiving a signal generated by a remote transmitting device.

88. (new) The method of claim 87, wherein the transmitting device does not transmit a signal when the container is subsequently re-opened.

89. (new) The method of claim 87, wherein the transmitting device is associated with at least one of: (i) a radio transmitter; (ii) a photosensitive device, (iii) a pressure sensitive device, (iv) a conductive element attached to an enclosure, (v) a seal having a conductive element, (vi) a seal having a non-conductive element, or (vii) a flexible printed circuit board device.

90. (new) The method of claim 87, wherein said receiving comprises receiving the signal at a controller via a communication device.

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91. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein the signal indicating includes at least one of:
(i) a party identifier, (ii) an item identifier, (iii) an item category, (iv) a container identifier, (v) a date, (vi) a time, or (vii) location information.

92. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein the signal indicating is received via at least one of: (i) a wireless network, (ii) an Internet protocol network, (iii) a Bluetooth network, or (iv) a cellular network.

93. (new) The method of claim 82, further comprising:

arranging for a second item owned by a first party to be within a second container based on the signal indicating; and

providing the second container and the second item to a second party without receiving payment for the item from the second party, wherein the first party remains the owner of the item while the second party has possession of the container and the item based on the signal indicating.

94. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein the item comprises at least one of: (i) a consumer item, (ii) a consumable item, (iii) paper, (iv) toner, (v) energy, (vi) food, (vii) a medical item, (viii) medicine, (ix) disposable contact lenses, (x) a software program, (xi) an entertainment item, (xii) text information, (xiii) audio information, (xiv) image information, (xv) an information storage item, (xvi) a regulated item, or (xvii) a financial item.

95. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein the container comprises at least one of: (i) a package, (ii) a wrapper, (iii) a box, (iv) a bag, (v) a bottle, (vi) a can, (vii) an envelope, (viii) a label, (ix) a tag, or (x) a tie.